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DEPARTMENT INDEX

(Itemized Index of Articles is printed on Front Cover)

| | PAGE |
|--|------------------|
| Editorials | 393 |
| Editorial Comment | 397 |
| Original Articles | 399 |
| Lure of Medical History | 432 |
| Clinical Notes and Case Reports | 434 |
| Bedside Medicine | 437 |
| California Medical Association | 444 |
| C. M. A. Department of Public Relations | 451 |
| Woman's Auxiliary to C. M. A. | 452 |
| News | 454 |
| Letters | 457 |
| Special Articles | 459 |
| Twenty-five Years Ago; State Examining Board | 464 |
| Roster of State and County Society Officers | Adv. pp. 2, 4, 6 |
| Index to Advertisements | Adv. p. 8 |

EDITORIALS†

GREETINGS FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AND NEW YEAR

Official Journal Joins with President Robert A. Peers and Officers in Extending Season's Greetings.—CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, as the official publication of the California and Nevada Medical Associations, voices its good wishes for joyous Christmas days and a happier New Year to each and every member of these two state medical societies.

Such wishes must always be associated with happiness that accompanies interesting and joyful occupation; for work is a blessed thing, and especially so, when of a kind such as the important and, oftentimes, vital personal service constantly being rendered to lay fellows by the men and women who make up the profession of medicine. But even those who thus work must also live, in order to serve to best advantage.

Since 1929, the economic depression has measurably affected world governmental and other policies, resulting in radical changes and departures from previously-accepted outlooks and standards. Inspection of charts and the figures of board of trade organizations, and also welfare bodies, shows how great have been these variations in many lines of activity.

Sickness and death statistics, however, during the last six years of economic and other changes have not greatly altered, and it follows, therefore, that physicians are today doing practically the same amount of professional work as before the onset of the present "hard times." Unfortunately, too, the money compensation received for services generously rendered, when charted, reveals a curve far from alluring: frequently much below what it should be, and only too often inadequate for the professional work done.

When, then, in contrast, one reflects upon the evidence of easy money, as seen in high prices and yet the comparatively enormous attendance at such places of entertainment as theatres and football games, and even in cafes and shops that purvey personal apparel and accessories, the thought arises that somewhere, somehow, in these troublous times, thousands of lay citizens, not

† Editorials on subjects of scientific and clinical interest, contributed by members of the California Medical Association, are printed in the Editorial Comments column, which follows.